

East Drayton Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 15th July 2014 in East Drayton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs N Stanley, I Stephens and R Small. In attendance: the Clerk, S Pickard. Members of the public: 4

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Stanley, H Mackintosh, M Goddard and PC Bailey.
2. **Minutes of meeting held on 17th June 2014** – were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Dropped kerbs at Ashlea Farm on Low Street. The Chairman advised this work has been completed. However the work at Bingham's corner has not been attended to. **ACTION: S Pickard** to contact Highways Department, Johnny Davies.
- b) Sand bag – Cllr Small's son may now have been unable to gain access to the container.
- c) St Peter's Church – the Chairman referred to the £1,500 pledged for the roof fund. The Chairman read out a report received from the PCC as follows:

"The project on repairs to the nave roof, high level windows and drainage is nearing completion – just the final reports to be completed.

The roof timbers when uncovered were more severely damaged than previously thought. This work was costly as the main timbers had to be kept and repairs completed on them. This was done by hand by carpenters, some of the timbers were kept in place where others were removed and completed in the workshop. The decorative framework was repaired and some cornices completely re-carved.

The high level windows can now be opened to give ventilation to the Church. This will help with keeping the air conditions at the correct temperature and avoid the damp and humid conditions, which the death watch beetle thrived in. As the roof was closed there was no evidence of any infestation – fingers crossed.

On the exterior of the Church, new soakaways and drains have been installed so that there is no standing water near the walls. All the guttering and lead works have been repaired and cleared to ensure that the water is taken away.

This work has cost an extra £4,000 to complete. We are presently applying for the last part of the grant, and also we are applying for a refund of the VAT on all eligible bills. We therefore need to continue to fund raise to ensure that all costs are covered. Ten per cent of the whole project costs will be retained for twelve months, which is normal practice for building projects.

This project has been a massive but vital piece of work to save this beautiful and historic church for the community now and in the future."

After discussion it was AGREED to release the final tranche of the £1,500 pledged. A cheque for £500 will be forwarded to the PCC. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

4. **Declarations by Councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest(s) in any agenda item** – there were no declarations.

5. **Planning** – there were no planning matters.

6. **Correspondence**

Central Government

a) Letter of introduction from Robert Jenrick MP (Newark) – re request to write regular article in village newsletter. After discussion it was AGREED this would be more appropriate for inclusion in the Tuxfordian. **ACTION: S Pickard** to contact constituency office with relevant details.

Nottinghamshire County Council

b) Bus network service changes/August 2014; leaflets. In circulation folder.

Bassetlaw District Council

c) Rural Conference 3rd October 2014 10 am to 12 noon in Retford Town Hall. (suggestions for topics to gill.pask@bassetlaw.gov.uk by 15th August 2014). In circulation folder.

d) Bassetlaw Site Allocations consultation. In circulation folder.

Police

e) Safer Neighbourhood Minutes from 9.4.14 and Agenda for 9.7.14 (previously circulated to Chairman). In circulation folder.

f) Notts Police and Crime Commissioner newsletter. In circulation folder

g) PC Bailey – emailed crime report – No crime reported for this month.

NALC

h) New President, Right Hon Ken Clarke QC, MP for Rushcliffe. In circulation folder.

General

i) The Church of England, Church Commissioners – draft Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme. In circulation folder.

7. **General Business**

i) New Parish Councillor – as yet no one has been co-opted.

ii) Village Newsletter – Cllr Mackintosh advised the Clerk earlier that he envisaged the next edition being produced for the end of July.

iii) Village Postman – in the absence of Cllr Mrs Stanley, the Chairman read a proposal for consideration concerning the long serving Postman, Mr Richard Vallance. He has delivered the mail in East Drayton for many years and is now taking retirement due to impending knee surgery. He has tirelessly left mail in secure places when people are out, checked on those who are house-bound and is a true carer of the people on his round. It was AGREED to purchase High Street vouchers for Mr Vallance to the value of £50.00 in recognition of his services to the village. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

iv) Village mower – for the past three years the Chairman has used his own mower in order to prepare the grass verges etc in and around the village for the Best Kept Village Competition. This mower is now past redemption and discussion followed concerning the purchase of a new machine by the Parish Council. The Chairman produced a range of models/prices and after further debate it was AGREED to purchase a 21” TORO mower at £350.00 plus VAT. **ACTION: Chairman.**

v) Best Kept Village competition; East Drayton is now through to the second round of judging that will take place any time now up until Friday, 25th July. Judges’ comments from the first round were as follows:

Domestic: Outstanding. Without exception well-kept hedges and verges and most attractive gardens.

Community: Footpaths were good. Telephone box was good. The Village Hall was very attractive with lovely pots of flowers, newly painted. The Village Hall sign needs some TLC. The noticeboard was good and road signs were clean. The Church was locked, but the churchyard was immaculate. All waste bins were good with no litter anywhere, and the bus stops were fine.

Commercial: The business park was immaculate. The public house was very neat and attractive with lovely planters. The farms were very good.

The Chairman added that both he and Cllr Mrs Stanley had attended to the village hall sign and chain fencing repairs. Next year, the Chairman would be contacting McDonalds to request support from them, considering the amount of fast food litter thrown from cars. Mr Ellis said he would like comments to be recorded in the minutes that the Chairman should be thanked for his enthusiasm and great effort in tidying and preparing the village for the competition. He had succeeded in bringing the village up to a great standard that should bode well for the next round.

8. Meeting adjourned for Public Discussion

- a) Mr David Stone remarked that he was pleased the village was doing so well in the BKVC and added that people do comment how smart the village is looking and it has enthused some to work on their own patch and take pride in where they live. He also suggested that perhaps some sort of rota could be drawn up, to relieve the Chairman of some of the tidying duties. It was however disappointing that the roads in the village had become a 'rat run' to Rampton and the surrounding power stations. This detracted from the quality of the village. He referred to an earlier enquiry, when the county council had concluded the roads were not busy enough, but his opinion differed and he felt the road traffic was an issue and difficult to accept no for an answer. He felt a 20 mph limited was probably 'over the top', but 30 mph possibly ought to be extended along the roads (as this clearly starts well inside the village). Cllr Small said he believed this was due to the requirement that the street had to be lit at the 30 mph limit.

Mr and Mrs Jopling added that visitors to Sundown using satellite navigation systems were directed through the village and constant offenders were employees from the power stations. Everyone agreed that the volume of traffic has increased and the Chairman agreed with the sentiments aired and referred to the recent speed trap, mobile flashing speed signs and the survey carried out by the Highways Dept that found there was insufficient volume of traffic or speeders to warrant further action.

Further discussion followed and it was AGREED to contact Johnny Davies at the Highways Department to request a meeting in the village with the Chairman and any interested parishioners, to discuss the situation. **ACTION: S Pickard.**

9. Finance

- a) Income – The Council noted income of £77.23; being VAT refund.
- b) Accounts for Payment
- i) The Council AGREED purchase of High Street vouchers, value £50.00 for Mr Richard Vallance. **ACTION: S Pickard.**
 - ii) The Council AGREED payment of £85.67 to Mr Steve Ellis, being renewal of website hosting and renewal of domain name registration. **ACTION: S Pickard.**
 - iii) The Council AGREED donation of £500 to the PCC being the last part of monies pledged for St Peter's Church roof fund. **ACTION: S Pickard.**
 - iv) The Council AGREED purchase of a mower, value £350.00 plus VAT. **ACTION: S Pickard/Chairman to purchase mower.**
- c) Balance of Accounts
- The account balances as at 15th July 2014 were:
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| | £ |
| TSB | 2,625.16 |
| Nottingham BS | <u>1,844.92</u> |
| | 4,470.08 |
- d) Transfer of Funds – not required.

10. Urgent Business

- a) Drain cover at Village Hall – the Chairman confirmed that the cover had now been removed from the village hall car park.

11. Date and time of next meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Tuesday, 16th September 2014 at 7.30 pm.**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____